

Montana Hotel (Marcus Daly Hotel)
Park Street and South Main
Anaconda
Deer Lodge County
Montana

HABS No. MT-33

HABS
MONT,
12 - ANAC,
2 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
MONT,
12-ANAC,
2-

MONTANA HOTEL

HABS No. MT-33

(MARCUS DALY HOTEL)

ADDRESS: Corner of Park St. and South Main, Anaconda,
Deer Lodge County, Montana.

OWNER: The Montana Hotel Corporation

OCCUPANT: The Marcus Daly Hotel

USE: Hotel

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This unique four story masonry structure was the fulfillment of a dream of a small number of Anaconda business men, among them Marcus Daly, one of the famed Copper Kings of the Montana Territory. He himself underwrote one-half of the cost of the building and its fittings.

The hotel was designed by Architect W. W. Boyington of Chicago in a composite style of French Renaissance and Romanesque. It is built of local red brick with terra cotta trim and decoration. The terra cotta was shipped by train from Chicago to Anaconda.

During the great political battles of the 1890's, Marcus Daly made every effort to have the capitol of Montana moved to Anaconda, but his dream was never realized. The hotel was too big for the town in which it was located, and was often empty. The building is now being renovated to much of its early grandeur after suffering years of neglect. Its name has been changed from the Montana Hotel to the Marcus Daly Hotel.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

One windy night in April of 1888, a group of three prominent Anaconda business men sat around a fire discussing the town, its business, its people, and its

prospects. As the group was about to break up, one of them mentioned that it was regrettable that Anaconda lacked a good hotel where lonely bachelors might find a home, and where strangers could be made comfortable.

It was resolved then and there that Anaconda would have such a hotel. Marcus Daly, a wealthy mine owner and a controversial figure in Montana politics, was one of the group, and it is reported that he said, "Go ahead with your plan and find out what has to be done, and put me down for one-half of the investment."

The hotel association was formed with Marcus Daly, president; William L. Hoge, vice-president; W. M. Thornton, secretary and treasurer. The directors were S. I. Estes, D. D. Walker, N. S. Snyder, and E. M. Trask.

The plans for a three story brick hotel were prepared by W. W. Boyington, architect, of Chicago, Illinois. By September of the same year (1888) the foundation of cut stone was completed. The Anaconda Weekly Review reported on September 20, 1888, that, "Architect Boynton's (sic) plans present a building 120 feet square and three stories high. It is brick, with rich ornamental work in terra cotta used in belting courses, and so tastefully introduced as not to rob the walls of a solid look, yet relieving the building's long lines and adding grace to its proportions."

On October 2, 1888, the same newspaper stated that the gentlemen building the hotel had started out to put \$80,000 into a hotel building, but the plans had grown since then. "Last week, for instance, after they had been thrity minutes in consideration, an order was wired to the architect in Chicago for 'a \$15,000 Mansard roof for one in a hurry.' When finished and furnished the new hotel will have cost about \$125,000."

The decision to add a floor (the Mansard roof idea) was born when J. B. Haggin, a business associate of Daly's, who was then on a visit to Anaconda, suggested that the building would look better if a fourth floor were added. At this time the walls of the building had reached the third floor level, the original height proposed. Architect Boyington did not approve of

the idea of adding a Mansard roof as he felt that such an addition would mar the general effect of the building. Instead he added the extra story in keeping with the original concept. The supervising architect and builder for the hotel was D. F. McDevitt of Butte, Montana.

Early in November, work on the hotel had progressed to the stage where the masonry work was almost complete and the carpenters were preparing the timbering for the additional floor, but McDevitt was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the decorative terra cotta.

Early in February, 1889, Mayor William L. Hoge, vice-president of the hotel association, left for the East to buy furnishings for the new hotel. Mayor Hoge also announced that he had obtained the services of D. L. Harbaugh of St. Paul, Minnesota, to manage the hotel. Harbaugh had been previously associated with the Palace Hotel in San Francisco for about eight years.

On June 27, 1889, the Anaconda Weekly Review stated that, "Next Monday, July 1, 1889, the finest and best-equipped hotel in this part of the country with all modern improvements will be open to the public of this city, and in fact to the public of the Territory. Fifteen hundred invitations have been issued to people here and in all parts of the union. The ball in the evening will surpass for excellence of dress anything of the kind ever attempted in Montana. Special trains will come into Anaconda during the day from Helena, Butte, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Great Falls, and in fact every city or town of any importance in the Territory." A gay affair it certainly was, for the following week some two columns of newspaper space was given over to a vivid description of the attire of the ladies in attendance.

The newspaper description of the layout of the hotel reveals a luxurious yet graciously planned hotel, ex.: "The main floor will abound with cozy nooks where millionaire and miner may chat, where the lounge will find quiet retreat, and where half Montana's

politicians may meet at one time and not seriously jostle one another."

The hotel was an important addition to the city of Anaconda. Later during the second political fight to select the site for the seat of government of the young state of Montana, Marcus Daly had high hopes that the hotel would house the legislators. However, Anaconda lost the capitol fight, and the hotel, though it remained open, was often nearly empty.

Marcus Daly died in 1900, and shortly thereafter the hotel was remodeled at a cost of \$96,000. After World War II another remodeling to "modernize" the hotel severely damaged its original architectural concept.

For a long period of time the Montana Hotel belonged to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. They sold the building to the Edmiston and Bell Company of Kalispell, Montana, on October 1, 1958. This company operated the hotel for a short time, then decided to demolish the structure. Quickly a local citizen's committee was formed to save it, and from this group the Montana Hotel Corporation was established. The corporation purchased the building and outlined plans for renovation, plus the addition of a motel to be attached to the southeast corner of the building by a breezeway.

Architect Norman Hamill of Butte was commissioned to restore the building to its original state as far as feasible and to add the motel. The name was changed from the Montana Hotel to the Marcus Daly Hotel to honor the man who had so much to do with its establishment. Today one can sense much of the original atmosphere in the main lobby and the elaborately paneled and furnished bar. Gradually each floor is being restored to accomodate the tourist of today.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL AND REFERENCES

Anaconda Weekly Review, Anaconda, Montana, 1888 and 1889.
Butte Holiday Miner, Butte, Montana, 1888-9.

Clark, H. McDonald, "Anaconda's Montana Hotel Attracts Many Tourists", Great Falls Tribune, Montana Parade, Great Falls, Montana, March 14, 1954.

Toole, K. Ross, Marcus Daly, A Study of Business in Politics, thesis, Montana State University, Missoula, 1948.

Wolle, Muriel S., Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Denver, 1963, pp. 174-7.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions - 120' x 120'.

Foundation - stone.

Wall Construction - brick with terra cotta trim and ornamentation.

Openings - Entrances: The main entrance for the hotel is on Main Street, and is 34 feet wide, arched, resting on terra cotta columns. A Ladies Entrance opened on Second Street, and other entrances on Main Street led into a drug store and the barroom.

Windows: 2/2 double hung windows. Large oriel windows project from the second and third floors in the center of each section on Main and Second Streets.

Roof - The raked portion of the roof was slate; the balance was iron.

Chimneys - brick.

INTERIOR

Floor Plan - This description of the original room layout of the hotel is quoted from the Butte Holiday Miner, 1888-9:

"In the first story, north side, is the main dining room, 36 x 66 feet, with a ladies ordinary 35' x 22'

adjoining. On the same floor adjoining the ladies' entrance on Second Street is the ladies reception room, 14' x 22', fitted up with toilet and retiring rooms. On the northeast corner is a store-room which will be occupied by a drug firm, 36' x 30'. Adjoining this is the barber shop, 14' x 36'. The rotunda, 32' x 44', occupies the center of the ground floor, and opening into it is the reading room, 20' x 27'. A ladies gallery surrounds the rotunda, and an open-arched passageway leads from the ladies reception room to the dining room. A washroom, closets and coat room are also on this floor convenient to the dining room. On the south side of the barroom, 14' x 36', is the billiard room, 28' x 36'. Passageways lead from the rotunda to the billiard, bar and main toilet rooms.... South of the dining room, and adjoining it, is the kitchen, 36' x 52', and adjoining this is the pastry room 31' x 22'. The balance of the floor is taken up with the hotel and private offices for the manager.

"On the second story, northeast corner, is the parlor, 25' x 42', with two oriel windows and a large bay window.... Adjoining this parlor are two smaller ones, one 18' x 18', and the other 14' x 18'. The three are connected by sliding doors and can be thrown into one should the occasion require it.... A club room, 14' x 18', adjoins the small parlors. Thirty-three bedrooms, the average size of which is 14' x 14', occupy the remainder of the floor. The third and fourth floors are devoted to sleeping apartments entirely, and each contains 44 rooms, all of the same average dimensions as the room on the floor beneath. All the rooms on each floor are en suite, and each suite is supplied with a fireplace with marble mantle and bath and toilet room. Corridors 8' wide extend through the building on each floor, and at their intersections are toilet rooms for the accommodation of the guests exclusive of those in the sleeping apartments."

In the basement were storage compartments for groceries, vegetables, wine, ice and trunks, with dining rooms for the help, a drying room, laundry, an airing room, and a room for the heating apparatus and the engine for the dynamo.

Barroom - Today the ornately carved mahogany bar, twenty-five feet long, shines as brightly as it did in the 1890's. The bar is complemented by a handsome, elaborately carved backbar with decorative columns and large mirrors. It is believed that the bar and backbar were fashioned after one in the Hoffman House (hotel) in New York City.

To commemorate the victory of his race horse, Tammany, over the famed Lamplighter on the Guttenberg course in 1893, Daly employed Tiffany and Sons of New York to inlay a picture of Tammany's head in a mosaic of hardwoods on the barroom floor. This work of art, done in minute squares of maple and mahogany, cost Daly \$3,000.

Reportedly Daly would stand and admire the picture for long periods of time, and would never walk across any part of the nine square feet of the picture. The mosaic remains to this day.

Staircase- Four large stairways led from the main floor to the upper floors. Only one remains today plus a small staircase wrapped around the present elevator.

Floor - hardwood on the office floor and its approaches; moquette carpet on parlors and their halls; Brussels carpeting in bedrooms and upper halls.

Wall and Ceiling Finish - plaster, wallpaper, and some hardwood paneling.

Elevator - An Otis hydraulic elevator was installed. It is said that on occasion the screen for the hydraulic water system would sometimes break, letting fish into the system. The elevator would stop until the fish were removed in the basement from the pipes.

Trim - elaborately moulded hardwood.

Fireplaces - Open fireplaces with marble mantles were in all parlors and reception rooms and in most of the bedrooms.

Hardware - brass hardware main entry; elsewhere brass and cast iron.

Cabinets - Much of the cabinet work used in the barroom, billiard room, reading room and lobby was finished in the east and shipped into Anaconda.

Heating - steam.

Lighting - electric and gas.

Report by: John N. DeHaas, Jr.
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Reviewed by: Eleni Silverman, HABS
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